



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200
DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

AUG 03 2005

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Request for Enforcement Discretion – Alternative Asbestos Control Method; National Emissions Standard for Hazardous Air Pollutant, Asbestos Demolition and Renovation Standard, 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart M

FROM: Richard E. Greene *R. Greene*
Regional Administrator

TO: Thomas V. Skinner
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and
Compliance Assurance

The purpose of this memorandum is to request enforcement discretion to allow EPA to evaluate an Alternative Asbestos Control Method of demolition for buildings containing asbestos building materials. A demonstration of the traditional NESHAP method for Asbestos Demolition and Renovation would be conducted at the same time under nearly identical side-by-side situations. Demonstrations of the two asbestos demolition methods will help EPA collect comparative scientific data to determine how best to reduce health and safety risks associated with asbestos removal.

A technical team has worked to identify a suitable location for evaluating the two asbestos removal methods associated with demolition. An appropriate site has been identified which is under the control of the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The site is in a remote location, secure from the public exposure and has several structures containing asbestos building materials to facilitate a side-by-side comparison.

The Alternative Asbestos Control Method

Briefly described, the Alternative Method would remove much of the potentially friable asbestos before demolition, but would leave some asbestos containing materials (primarily wall systems) in place. The demolition would then proceed using water suppression before, during, and after demolition, in order to trap asbestos fibers and minimize their potential release to the air. Wastewater generated during the demonstration would be contained and treated as appropriate and all contaminated materials would be disposed of properly as asbestos-containing materials. The demonstration would include extensive environmental monitoring of air, soil and surface water, and would allow for a representative of the City, State Health Department, or EPA

to stop work if conditions so merited. The demonstration also has the safeguard of a remediation plan in the unlikely event of a significant release.

General Information

The Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority has been identified as the site for the testing of the Alternative Asbestos Control Method. These 1950 era buildings are identical in composition and structure, which is ideal for the testing and comparative evaluation of the Alternative Method vs. the Asbestos NESHAP. The buildings have a clearance of approximately 1,000 linear feet from the nearest occupied site on the eastern side, and greater than 1,400 linear feet in all other directions. The demonstration protocol includes provisions to account for distance, wind speed, wind direction, etc. to ensure maximum human health protection.

A technical team of EPA scientists and engineers is being assembled to peer review and further refine the demonstration protocol. A site-specific Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be developed and externally peer reviewed under the Agency's Peer Review Policy and the process will be facilitated through the EPA's Office of Research and Development - Office of Science Policy. A pre-demolition QAPP will be peer reviewed, and representatives from several offices within our Agency will evaluate the air monitoring data in the post-demolition QAPP report. The independent Science Advisory Board will be involved in evaluating demonstration results. Public involvement of local residents will be solicited at various stages throughout the project, and will be an integral part of the project plan.

EPA continues to emphasize development of technologies for the improvement of environmental compliance. Demonstration of the Alternative Method will help us evaluate existing demolition practices of the Asbestos NESHAP with the potential of improving environmental compliance if the Alternative Method is found to be equivalent or superior to existing regulations.

I appreciate your help in moving this project forward. If you have questions or if I can be of assistance, please contact me at (214) 665-2100.